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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, William Henry "Bill" Cosby, Jr. (born July 12,
3 1937) is an American comedian, actor, author, television
4 producer, educator, musician, and activist; a veteran stand-up
5 performer, he got his start at the "hungry i" in San Francisco
6 and various other clubs; he then landed a starring role in the
7 1960s action show "I Spy" and was one of the major performers
8 on the children's television series "The Electric Company"
9 during its first 2 seasons; he created the educational cartoon
10 comedy series "Fat Albert" and "The Cosby Kids", about a group
11 of young friends growing up in the city; and

12 WHEREAS, During the 1980s, Bill Cosby produced and starred
13 in one of the decade's defining sitcoms, "The Cosby Show",
14 which aired 8 seasons from 1984 to 1992; it was the number one
15 show in America for 5 straight years (1985-89) and highlighted
16 the experiences and growth of an affluent African-American
17 family; he also produced the spin-off sitcom "A Different
18 World", which became second only to "The Cosby Show" in
19 ratings; he starred in the sitcom "Cosby" from 1996 to 2000 and
20 hosted "Kids Say the Darndest Things" for 2 seasons; and

21 WHEREAS, In 1976, Bill Cosby earned a Doctor of Education
22 degree from the University of Massachusetts Amherst; his
23 dissertation discussed the use of "Fat Albert" and "The Cosby

1 Kids" as a teaching tool in elementary schools; and

2 WHEREAS, In 2002, scholar Molefi Kete Asante included him
3 in his book "The 100 Greatest African Americans"; and

4 WHEREAS, Bill Cosby has always been deeply involved in
5 helping educate children and fostering a life-long love of
6 learning; therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
8 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
9 we urge the City of Chicago to name the branch of the Chicago
10 Public Library located in the Austin community after actor and
11 comedian Bill Cosby; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
13 presented to Chicago Public Library Commissioner Brian Bannon
14 and Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel.